



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Comments on Final CCP Alternative E

Applauds CCP Process, Emphasizes Importance of Public-Private Partnerships

La Crosse, WI— U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), a founder and co-chair of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Task Force as well as the newly formed Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus, released the following statement in response to the announcement that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) would adopt Alternative E of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge:

“As I have stated throughout the CCP process, I believe any final plan for the refuge must be a product of public consensus that addresses the refuge’s short-term and long-term needs and maintains the essential public-private partnerships in managing this important resource. This proved to be no easy task, and I would like to commend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting an open and fair process and making every attempt to involve the public in the CCP development.

“What is clear from this process is that many individuals and groups care passionately about the refuge’s management. It is equally clear that no final plan can be all things to all people, so we all must recognize that it has to balance the needs of the various users as well as wildlife. While I continue to have general budget and enforcement concerns, I believe Alternative E makes the best attempt to balance the short-term and long-term needs of this important multi-use resource.

“It is my hope that as the plan moves forward the partner agencies continue to work together along with the public to achieve the goals of the plan and enhance the private-public partnerships that are so critical to large-scale conservation initiatives, like the Environmental Management Program, which just yesterday celebrated twenty years of successful river conservation.”

For more background on Cong. Kind’s efforts regarding the CCP, please visit www.house.gov/kind.